(d) The project ALA/89/04 strengthening of Veterinary Services for Livestock Disease Control initiated in May, 1992 is scheduled to the completed by 31st March, 1998. The target date for eradication of rinderpest is 31st March, 1998 but the project has already succeeded in its efforts as there was no incidence of rinderpest in the country since October, 1995. Following the OIE Pathway the country has already made declaration of provisionally free from rinderpest from May, 1994 in the North Eastern & Eastern, Northern, Western and Central Parts of India leaving only the Southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry.

Worship Act, 1991

1610. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of places of worship restored under the places of Worship Act, 1991 upto March 31, 1996, State-wise;

(b) the details of cases filed in this regard between April-September, 1996; and

(c) the details of cases pending as on March 31, 1996 and September 30, 1996 State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The places of Worship (Special Provisons) Act, 1991 prohibits conversion of any place of worship. The Act also provides for maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on 15th August, 1947, and no suit, appeal or other proceeding with respect to any such matter shall lies on or after commencement of this Act in any court, tribunal etc. There is no specific provision in the Act for restoration of religious character of a place of worship.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Militants in Para-Military Forces

1611. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Governments have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Recruitment of surrendered militants in para military force" appearing in "Daily Punjab Kesari", dated November 20, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the policy of the Government regarding appointment of these militants; and

(d) the separate amount sanctioned by the Government for the purpose, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Government has approved the raising of 1 Bn. each for BSF and CRPF for accommodating the surrendered militants in the J&K valley at an estimated expenditure of Rs.68.53 crore which shall be incurred over a period of 4-5 years.

Kuriyarkutty Project

1612. SHRI N.N. KRISHNA DAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2074 dated July 30, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the information sought regarding Kuriyarkutty-Karrappara Hydel project from Kerala Government has been received; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, Sir. Government of Kerala has not submitted requisite information to this Ministry so far.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Animal Husbandry

1613. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is ample scope for the development of Animal Husbandry is West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to set up Research Centres in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). No proposal is under consideration for setting up Research Centres in West Bengal during 1996-97. The existing Central farms are catering to Research need of the State Governments including West Bengal.

[Translation]

National Policy for Aged People

1614. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of aged/senior citizens in the country, State-wise and projection of their numerical strength for the next ten years; and